

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 03116 190838Z

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ACTION NEA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 342

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3116

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CE
SUBJ: CURRENT AGENDA

FOR LAINGEN FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 245978

1. WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS WERE ALSO OF GREAT HELP
TO ME. I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE AND
JIM LEADER'S HARD AND EFFECTIVE WORK.

2. I AGREE WITH CURRENT AGENDA SUBJECT TO FOLLOWING
COMMENTS AND ADDITIONS:

A. RE FY 74 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, I WOULD HOPE THERE ARE
HIGHER EXPECTATIONS RE PL 480 AND CCC CREDIT THAN INDICA-
TED IN YOUR MESSAGE.

B. RE FY 75 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, I HAD NOT UNDER-
STOOD THAT THERE WAS "LITTLE PROSPECT FOR FURTHER
PL 480". IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE ARE
PLANS TO HAVE PL 480 PROGRAMS IN FY 75, ALTHOUGH
PRESUMABLY AT REDUCED LEVELS, AND THAT AID AND
OTHER GOVT AGENCIES ARE AT LEAST NOTIONALLY
THINKING IN TERMS OF \$10 MILLION PL 480 IN ADDITION
TO DEVELOPMENT LOAD FOR SRI LANKA.

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C. RE AID FOR MALDIVES, WE ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE TO OUR EARLIER REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON AID IN GENERAL (COLOMBO 2596). ONE THOUGHT WOULD BE TO TELL MALDIVES THAT IN GENERAL WE HAVE NO LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE GRANT ASSISTANCE AND WE UNDERSTAND MALDIVIANS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN LOANS. CONSEQUENTLY, PROSPECTS DO NOT APPEAR BRIGHT FOR US ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD BE WILLING CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS GOM MIGHT MAKE.

D. I AM CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE CUT MENTIONED BY HUBBARD BUT NOT RPT NOT DISCUSSED WITH ME DURING MY MEETING WITH MESSRS. RICHADSON, HITCHOCK AND ALLEN. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT SUSTAIN AT LEAST PRESENT BUDGET FIGURE FOR CU, REMEMBERING THAT PARA PAPER APPROVED LAST YEAR CALLED FOR INCREASED EXPENDITURES FOR CULTURAL EXHANGE PROGRAMS FOR SRI LANKA.

3. PLEASE THANK JIM LEADER FOR HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANCE ON AMBASSADORIAL LOGISTICS.

4. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND PENNE. I HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE SOON TO MAKE UP FOR YOUR TWO EARLIER UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO TRAVEL THIS WAY THIS YEAR.
VAN HOLLEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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